



## ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

Fred Krupp · President

April 18, 2007

Honorable George W. Bush  
The President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Environmental Defense, and our 500,000 members nationwide, I am writing to let you know how strongly we disagree with proposals by your Administration and others to promote the conversion of coal to transport fuel as a strategy to advance national energy security. Environmental Defense recognizes that coal is a substantial and important energy resource for the United States, but promoting transport fuel from coal absent a national strategy to cap and substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions is like throwing kerosene on a raging fire.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international body of the world's leading climate scientists, provides a sobering assessment of global warming's impact on water supply, agricultural production, and coastal communities. These effects will further destabilize already volatile regions in the world, according to a number of top retired U.S. military leaders. Absent dramatic and immediate efforts to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Americans will experience a world that is less secure and stable.

As the world's largest emitter of the pollution that causes global warming, and a nation seeking international economic and political stability, the United States has an obligation and the self-interest to act now to cap and reduce greenhouse gas pollution and avoid the worst consequences of global warming. The Administration's proposal to promote the use of coal for transport fuel takes our nation in the wrong direction.

According to the U.S. E.P.A., diesel fuel derived from coal results in more than twice the greenhouse gas pollution as conventional gasoline. Even with full capture and geologic storage of the carbon dioxide produced by the coal-to-liquids process, diesel fuel derived from coal results in a 3.7 percent increase in greenhouse gas pollution relative to traditional oil-based fuel. Unless a policy is in place requiring greenhouse gas pollution to be fully avoided or offset, coal-derived transport fuel is a step backward in the fight to reduce our nation's greenhouse gas emissions, and a step toward the worst consequences of climate change.

There are many solutions available to strengthen America's security while addressing the urgent threat of global warming. The most effective and efficient way to achieve these vital goals is to adopt a declining national cap on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas pollutants. By creating a market signal for carbon dioxide emissions, a cap would require all fuel producers, regardless of feedstock, to incorporate the true cost of greenhouse gas pollution into the design and performance of their project, and ensure that this pollution is appropriately addressed.

To achieve true energy security, the United States must reduce greenhouse gas from the transportation sector, rather than promote strategies that emit even more pollution than conventional fuels. The sooner the U.S. adopts policies that send a market signal on greenhouse gas emissions, the sooner business will respond with the necessary advancements in efficient transportation technology, low-emission, alternative fuels, and other innovations not yet imagined.

There is much we can do to achieve true national energy security. I urge you to make a national cap on greenhouse gas emissions the centerpiece of any national energy security strategy. Only then will we put our nation on a path toward greater energy security and climate stability.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom V. Ivers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "T".